

While I agree in theory with the ARRL proposition for HF access to the entry class level of licenses, I believe that their proposal is flawed on some points.

The ARRL's idea is to allow the entry level license to access HF to, "Get their feet wet". IN looking at their proposed privileges, the proposed entry level license has access to far more frequencies then need to "Get ones feet wet". On 40 meters for example, the difference between the entry level license and the General license is only 25khz. Also, in the proposed CW band changes, the difference in privileges is again not much less then for a General class license.

It seems that the frequency privileges allowed for an entry level license should be smaller, such as the top 50khz on each band for voice, and the top 100khz of the CW band on 10, 15, and 80, and the top 50khz of the CW band on 40 meters. This would allow the Entry level operators to learn about HF, and to decided if it is for them. Should they decided to upgrade to General, the gain in frequency privileges gives them the incentive to do so.

I believe that if approved as the ARRL has proposed, since the difference in operating privileges is small between the entry level license and General class is small, the incentive to upgrade from is not strong enough, as not much would be gained. I believe that the frequency privileges for the Entry level class license proposed by the ARRL is too much.

Regarding CW testing, I support keeping the 5WPM requirement for General and Extra. If an entry level license is approved, that license class would have privileges to certain parts of the CW sub-bands. I believe that if the Entry class operator wants to upgrade, the additional CW privileges will also be an incentive to do so. Since we have upgraded phone privileges to a person who passes that part of the exam, I believe that we should upgrade the CW privileges to a person who can prove the proficiency in CW.

Regarding merging all Technicians into General, and all Advanced into Extra, I am not in favor if it. I hold an advanced class license, and I do not want to be an Extra. If I want to be an Extra, I will go out and take the test, and I am sure that some technician operators feel the same. While completing a simplified licensing structure would be in the best interest of everyone involved, I believe that there are many operators out there that feel the same, and they know that they have the option of upgrading should they want.

Thanks for your time,

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